

Ochoco National Forest

2014 Botany Program Accomplishments

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plants:

- Completed/submitted for publication a Bayesian Risk Assessment model to determine highest risk factors attributing to the decline of Sensitive Henderson's needlegrass (collaboration with Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center and Western Washington University).
- Completed high resolution aerial photograph mapping of invasive grass, *Ventennata*, on 10 scablands where it threatens Sensitive Henderson's needlegrass.
- Surveyed > 220 ac. of rare plant habitat. Completed botany analysis and reports.
- Submitted two ISSSP proposals for: 1) baseline data for Wallowa's needlegrass; 2) habitat condition for *Botrychium* spp. populations.
- Completed project surveys and final ISSSP report for Sensitive bryophyte species.

Conservation Education – too many to list, highlights include :

- Taught *Plants of the Pacific Northwest* class at Central Oregon Community College.
- Designed Botany Curricula for Crook County Outdoor School; trained teachers and mentors about native plants; led outdoor school botany field sessions for 360 students).
- Led plant community field trip for High School AP Biology students (60 students)
- Designed curricula and field sessions for Powell Butte Community Charter School Placed Based Learning Project; students learned to sample riparian vegetation.
- Botanist, Krista Farris, was one of the key organizers for the annual Fin, Fire, Feather conservation education; Botanists taught lichen sessions.
- Field trips/presentations with Powell Butte Charter School, Crook Co. Middle and High Schools, Oregon State University Cascades Campus, Warm Springs Tribe, etc.
- Engaged Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council in establishing vegetation monitoring in areas where juniper will be removed.

Unique Plants and Habitats:

- Provided botanical expertise for monitoring Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems as part of an integrated resource team.
- Assisted Ecologists with monitoring riparian vegetation recovery from grazing.
- Collected seeds & rhizomes of native milkweed, *Asclepias speciosa*, for monarch butterfly conservation.

Habitat Restoration:

- Planted 420 native plants on 7 acres; seeded 825 lbs. of seed on 1,252 ac.
- 6,382 ac. of weed treatments benefitted terrestrial and riparian habitats.
- Identified meadow habitats for reversing conifer encroachment; proposed future tree removal & prescribed burning to improve habitat for Peck's mariposa lily.
- Implemented restoration projects/developed revegetation plans for projects across Lookout Mt. and Paulina Districts & Crooked River National Grassland.



Figure 3. Krista Farris, Lookout Mt. District Botanist, teaches botany to Crook County High School students.



Figure 1. Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council established baseline vegetation monitoring where juniper will be removed.



Figure 2. Krista Farris and Rick Dewey survey for bryophytes at Opal Springs.

2014 Accomplishments

Total NFWF Funding = \$19,325

- TES plant surveys (220 ac.)
- TES plant monitoring (50 ac.)
- Habitat Restoration (63 ac. + 6,382 weed treatments)

Other funding: NFIM, NFTM, NFVW, WFHF

Partners: Prineville, Powell Butte & Madras Schools, FS Ecologists, FS WWETAC, Central Oregon Community College, OSU Cascades, Western Washington University, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council.

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